

**Minutes of the Special Town Meeting  
June 30, 2011**

Moderator George Knittel opened the Special Town Meeting on Thursday, June, 2011 at 7:20pm at the Ayer Shirley Middle School Auditorium, 1 Hospital Road. Alphee Levesque Jr. led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Town Clerk had sworn the following people as tellers: Mike Detillion, Alphee Levesque Jr., Rachel Sizer, and James Thibault. Marjorie Marcinkewicz and Barbara Masiero checked voters into the meeting. 152 voters checked in.

The Town Clerk confirmed for the Moderator that the warrant had been duly posted. The Moderator asked members of the audience to obtain a copy of the warrant and related handouts at the check-in area if they had not picked them up on their way in.

Dan Meehan, acting chair of the Finance Committee, made a presentation about the status of the budget. The actions proposed would leave about \$40,000 in the stabilization fund, and the town is hopeful that it will be replenished with MCI mitigation funds from the state budget.

**Article 1. Amend Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2012**

David Swain moved that the Town vote to amend the General Operating Budget of the Town for the period beginning July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012, as voted under Article 6 of the June 6, 2011 Annual Town Meeting, for the specified line items and accounts of the departmental budgets included in the Warrant.

And further that the Town vote to approve two new funding sources for the authorized FY2012 Budget spending, specifically: \$396,419 from funds that were previously committed to debt service payment and that are no longer needed for debt service payment; and, \$121,047 from the Stabilization Fund. Kendra Dumont seconded.

The Moderator advised that he would read through the proposed changes to the budget line by line to give the audience the opportunity to ask for specific lines to be held for discussion.

The proposed changes to the budget as presented in the warrant were as follows:

***TOWN OF SHIRLEY – FY2012 BUDGET***

		<b>FY12 Approved</b>	<b>Amendment</b>	<b>FY12 Revised</b>
<b>Line Item #</b>	<b>Department/Account Name</b>	<b>(\$)</b>	<b>(\$)</b>	<b>(\$)</b>
122	Selectmen			
	Salaries, Elected Officials	3	297	300
129	Town Administrator			
	Salary, Appointed Position	85,000	10,000	95,000
	Expenses	0	1,000	1,000
135	Town Accountant			
	Wages, Hourly, Appointed	19,388	16,964	36,352
141	Assessors			
	Salaries, Elected Officials	3	297	300
	Wages, Hourly	0	5,050	5,050

	<b>TOWN OF SHIRLEY FY2012 BUDGET continued</b>	<b>FY12 Approved</b>	<b>Amendment</b>	<b>FY12 Revised</b>
<b>Line Item #</b>	<b>Department/Account Name</b>	<b>(\$)</b>	<b>(\$)</b>	<b>(\$)</b>
145	Treasurer			
	Wages, Hourly, Appointed	18,135	15,868	34,003
	Tax Title/Foreclosure Expenses	15,000	13,000	28,000
146	Town Collector			
	Wages, Hourly, Appointed	19,826	2,974	22,800
155	Computer Operations			
	Salary, Technology Admin.	35,000	18,000	53,000
162	Conservation Commission			
	Wages, Hourly, Secretary	3,607	3,608	7,215
192	Public Buildings			
	Repairs & Maintenance	5,000	5,000	10,000
	Town Betterments	0	48,000	48,000
243	Gas/Plumbing Inspector			
	Salary, Appointed Position	7,500	2,500	10,000
245	Wiring Inspector			
	Salary, Appointed Position	7,500	2,500	10,000
251	Communication Center			
	Expenses	8,000	707	8,707
433	B.O.H./Trash Collection			
	Trash Collection/Recycling	154,067	32,797	186,864
691	Historical Commission			
	Expenses	0	200	200
913	Unemployment Insurance			
	Expenses	99,592	(49,592)	50,000
914	Group Health/Life Insurance			
	Expenses	676,400	20,800	697,200
916	F.I.C.A./Medicare			
	General Expenses	34,400	600	35,000

The following line items were held:

192 – Public Buildings

243 – Gas/Plumbing Inspector

245 – Wiring Inspector

433 – B.O.H./Trash Collection

691 – Historical Commission

There were handouts at the check-in area that pertained to this article, and the Town Clerk went to make additional copies to ensure that all attendees could have them.

**Amendment 1** David Swain moved to amend Line Item #192, Public Buildings, Town Betterments to eliminate the proposed amended increase of \$48,000 to zero, leaving the line item at zero. Kendra Dumont seconded.

**Hand Vote: Unanimous vote; motion carried.**

**Amendment 2** David Swain moved to amend line item #433, B.O.H./Trash Collection, Trash Collection/Recycling to reduce the Approved amount of \$154,067 by \$104,067 leaving the line item at \$50,000. Kendra Dumont seconded.

**Hand Vote: Moderator declared 2/3 majority in favor; amendment passed.**

**Amendment 3** David Swain moved to amend line item #691, Historical Commission Expenses to eliminate the proposed amended increase of \$200 to zero, leaving the line item at zero. Kendra Dumont seconded.

**Hand Vote: Unanimous vote in favor; amendment passed.**

Regarding line items 243 and 245, the question was asked whether the employees in these positions document that they work enough hours to qualify for health benefits. It is believed that they work enough hours to qualify, and there is a plan for the Chief Administrative Officer to review these positions, their hours, how they document them, and fees. No amendment proposed.

The moderator explained that we would vote on the article in parts - first to accept the line items as amended, and then to vote on the new two funding sources.

In voting to accept the line items as amended, the total reduction to the FY2012 budget would be \$34,494.

	<b>TOWN OF SHIRLEY FY2012 BUDGET</b>	<b>FY12 Approved</b>	<b>Amendment</b>	<b>FY12 Revised</b>
	<b>TOTALS</b>	1,188,421	(34,494)	1,153,927

**Hand Vote on Line Items as Amended: unanimous vote in favor; amended line items passed**

The moderator then re-read the funding sources of the motion: \$396,419 from funds that were previously committed to debt service payment; and, \$121,047 from the Stabilization Fund. The \$396,419 had been freed up by passage of the Debt Exclusion Ballot Question at the Special Town Election on June 28, 2011. The moderator advised that using money from the Stabilization Fund requires a 2/3 majority instead of a simple majority, therefore we would vote on that amount separately.

A handout at the Town Meeting summarized the authorized spending and funding sources. This was reviewed.

#### Authorize Spending

Total Authorized at the Annual Town Meeting	\$ 10,659,244
Total Amended at this Special Town Meeting	<u>(\$ 34,494)</u>
Total Spending Authorized	\$ 10,624,750

#### Funding Sources

Total Funding Sources Identified at Annual Town Meeting	\$ 10,107,284
Amounts to be provided by funds which were previously committed to debt service payment and are no longer needed for that payment	\$ 396,419
Stabilization Fund	<u>\$ 121,047</u>
	\$10,624,750

*Hand vote on re-allocating the \$396,419: moderator declared 2/3 majority vote in favor; passed.*

*Hand vote on taking \$121,047 from the Stabilization Fund: Moderator declared 2/3 majority in favor; passed.*

*Therefore, the motion for Article 1 with the line items as amended and both funding sources as proposed passed. The changes to the budget as passed are as follows:*

	<b>TOWN OF SHIRLEY FY2012 BUDGET</b>	<b>FY12 Approved</b>	<b>Amendment</b>	<b>FY12 Revised</b>
<b>Line Item #</b>	<b>Department/Account Name</b>	<b>(\$)</b>	<b>(\$)</b>	<b>(\$)</b>
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162	Conservation Commission			
	Wages, Hourly, Secretary	3,607	3,608	7,215
192	Public Buildings			
	Repairs & Maintenance	5,000	5,000	10,000
	Town Betterments	0	0	0
243	Gas/Plumbing Inspector			
	Salary, Appointed Position	7,500	2,500	10,000
245	Wiring Inspector			
	Salary, Appointed Position	7,500	2,500	10,000
251	Communication Center			
	Expenses	8,000	707	8,707
433	B.O.H./Trash Collection			
	Trash Collection/Recycling	154,067	-104,067	50,000
691	Historical Commission			
	Expenses	0	0	0
913	Unemployment Insurance			
	Expenses	99,592	(49,592)	50,000

914	Group Health/Life Insurance			
	Expenses	676,400	20,800	697,200
916	F.I.C.A./Medicare			
	General Expenses	34,400	600	35,000
	<b>TOTALS</b>	1,188,421	(34,494)	1,153,927

**Article 2: Amend FY2012 Curbside Solid Waste/Recycling Budget Appropriations**

David Swain moved to take no action on Article 2. Kendra Dumont seconded.

It was explained that the figures have to be reworked and that a fall special town meeting was planned, at which this article would be revisited.

*Hand Vote on motion to take no action: Unanimous vote in favor; passed.*

**Article 3: Transfer into the Stabilization Fund for FY2012**

David Swain moved to take no action on Article 3. Kendra Dumont seconded.

*Hand Vote on motion to take no action: Unanimous vote in favor; passed.*

David Swain moved to dissolve the town meeting. Kendra Dumont seconded.

*Voice Vote: Unanimous vote in favor, and moderator declared meeting dissolved at 8:10pm.*

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy R. McDougall  
Shirley Town Clerk